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ABSTRACT

The goals and purposes of the National Rural Education Association (N.R.E.A) as revised in October 1986 derive from the general goal to improve educational opportunities for children in rural areas with additional attention to those for whom opportunities have been severely limited in the past. Specific goals/objectives concerning national leadership and voice include serving as national advocate/representative for rural education through position papers, policy development, and expansion of rural publications; providing coordination at the national level for rural education programs/activities; providing leadership for rural education related conferences/workshops; and providing a forum for public educators in rural areas. Specific goals/objectives concerning needs of rural students include promoting state/regional delivery systems which identify rural education materials and program needs, encouraging mass media and technology to serve rural education more efficiently, and encouraging use of distance education technology; recognizing exemplary delivery systems and practices; encouraging collection/dissemination of practices, data, and other information; encouraging sharing of resources and services; encouraging colleges/universities to develop materials/resources for rural schools and to train school personnel for work in small schools; and stimulating discussion, research and policy for public and private agencies to develop educational materials/technology appropriate to rural children. (LFL)

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National Rural Education Association
(N.R.E.A.)

GOALS AND PURPOSES

Revised: October, 1986

Approved and Ratified By The 1986 N.R.E.A. Delegate Assembly

October 17, 1986

Little Rock, Arkansas

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GOALS AND PURPOSES
OF
NATIONAL RURAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

To further the improvement of educational opportunities for all children in rural areas with additional attention to those for whom opportunities have been severely limited in the past. This goal expanded includes:

1. NATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND VOICE

   A. Serving as the national advocate and representative for rural education.

      A.1 Take positions on issues involving rural education.

      A.2 Expand rural publications.

      A.3 Enlist a greater participation of the Executive Commitee and Standing Committees in the development of issue papers and policy development.

   B. Providing coordination, at the national level, for rural education programs and activities.

      B.1 Maintain liaison with other national organizations related to rural education.

      B.2 Strengthen the working relationship with U.S.D.O.E. in the recognition of outstanding rural schools.

   C. Providing leadership for rural education related conferences and workshops.

      C.1 Provide national conference with adequate budget.

      C.2 Provide continued support and leadership for the National Center For The Enrichment of Rural Teaching.

   D. Providing a forum for all those involved in public education in rural areas - including teachers, administrators, board members, and members of the rural community at large whereby they may come together professionally and exchange ideas.

      D.1 Actively promote membership and active participation of teachers, administrators, board members and members of the rural community at large.

      D.2 Establish state delegate system.

      D.3 Establish coordinating committee -- task force representative of all states.

2. NEEDS OF RURAL STUDENTS

E. Promoting state and regional delivery systems which bring about efficient and effective education for children in rural areas.

E.1 Identify rural education needs -- materials and programs.

E.2 Develop a relationship with mass media and technology to serve rural education more efficiently.

E.3 Establish a communication system utilizing any and/or all of the following: delegate system, publications, legislative and educational agency contacts.

E.4 Identify and spotlight delivery systems effectively serving rural areas.

E.5 Recognize exemplary practices in rural education.

E.6 Accelerate emphasis on improving Rural Education delivery systems through the use of distance education technology.

F. Encouraging the collection and dissemination of promising practices, statistical data, and other appropriate information relating to rural education as well as the sharing of services and resources among educational organizations and agencies.

F.1 Maintain a strong central REA office to solicit, collect and prepare for dissemination of various promising practices.

F.2 Develop a system of systems for the articulation of Rural Education needs. (i.e., School to School, School to State, and State to State).

F.3 Urge that readers and evaluators of educational programs for national validation include rural as well as urban and suburban representatives.

G. Encouraging colleges and universities to develop materials and resources specifically for rural schools and to train school personnel to work more effectively in small schools.

G.1 Determine what materials and resources for training rural school personnel presently exist.

G.2 Coordinate the establishment of training programs for educators to assist in their personal adjustment and professional adaptation to living and working in rural areas.

H. Stimulating discussion, research and policy development regarding equal educational opportunities for all students.

H.1 Promote research in rural education and recognize outstanding effort through REA Research Award.

H.2 Promote use of ERIC/CRESS, and regional labs for research and dissemination related to rural education.

H.3 Provide grants to stimulate research.

H.4 Maintain National Center for Rural Education Research.

H.5. Maintain liaison with the Consortium of Higher Education Rural Program Administrators.

I. Stressing the need for public and private agencies to develop specific educational materials and technology appropriate to children in rural areas.

I.1 Provide data to publishers and media to support need for specific materials.

I.2 Impact publishing houses regarding rural emphasis in texts and related media resources.

I.3 Recognize the development of exemplary curricular and professional development materials.